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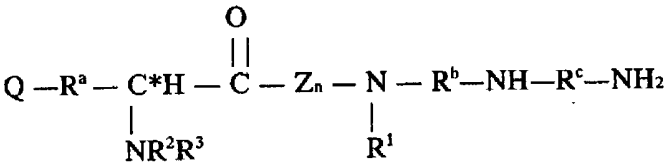
In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).

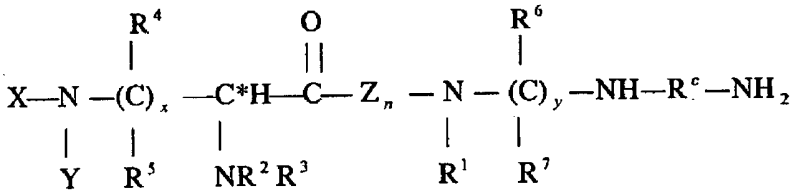
2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25, having the formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein Q, R^a, R^b, R^c, R^2, R^3, Z, n, and R^1 are as in Claim 1.

3. (Previously Presented) Compounds according to Claim 25, having the formula (Ib):



(Ib)

wherein:

X, Y, Z, n and R^1 are as defined in Claim 1;

X is an integer from 1 to 5;

Y is 3 or 4

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group; and

the chiral carbon atom indicated by the asterisk is in the L configuration.

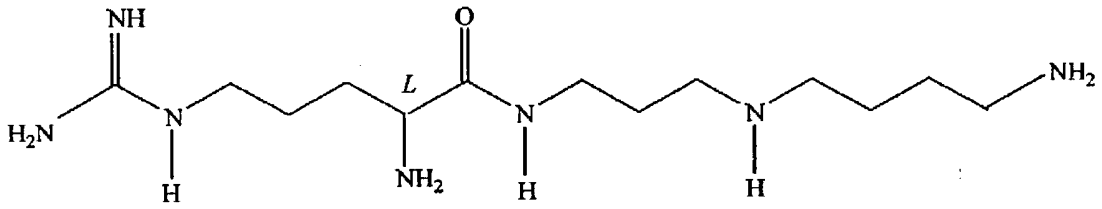
4. (Previously Presented) Compounds according to Claim 25, in which Z represents an aromatic amino acid residue in the L configuration.

5. (Cancelled).

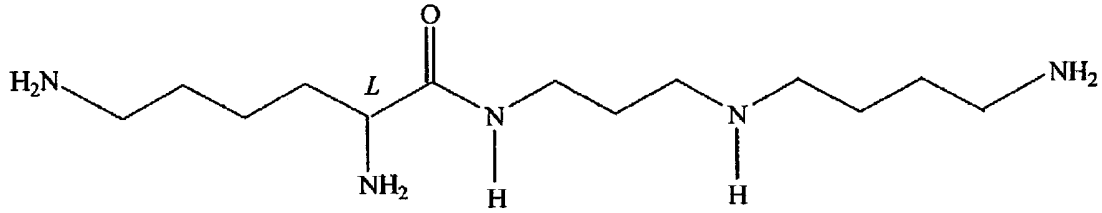
6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

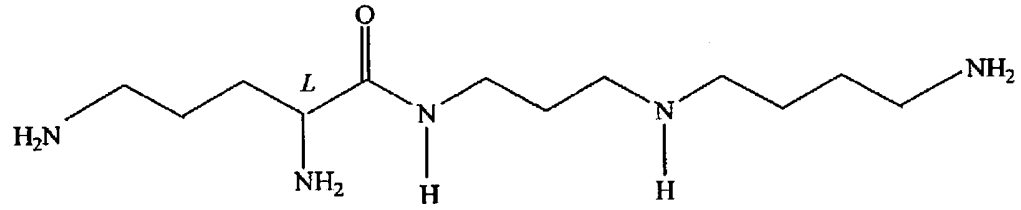
8. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



10. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



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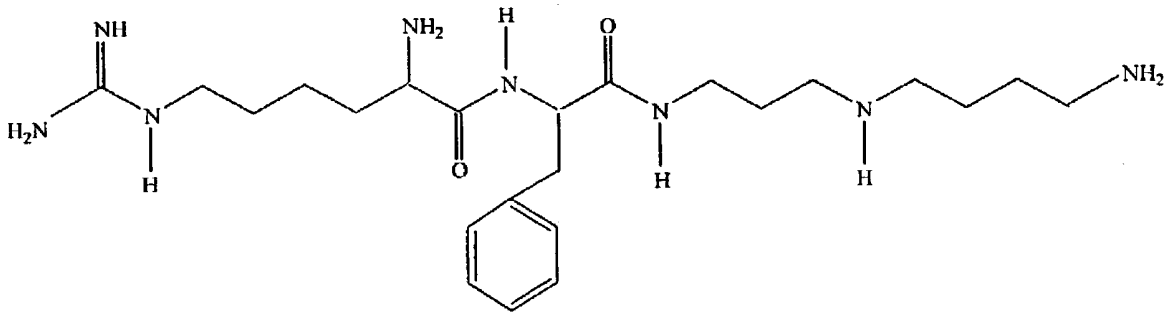
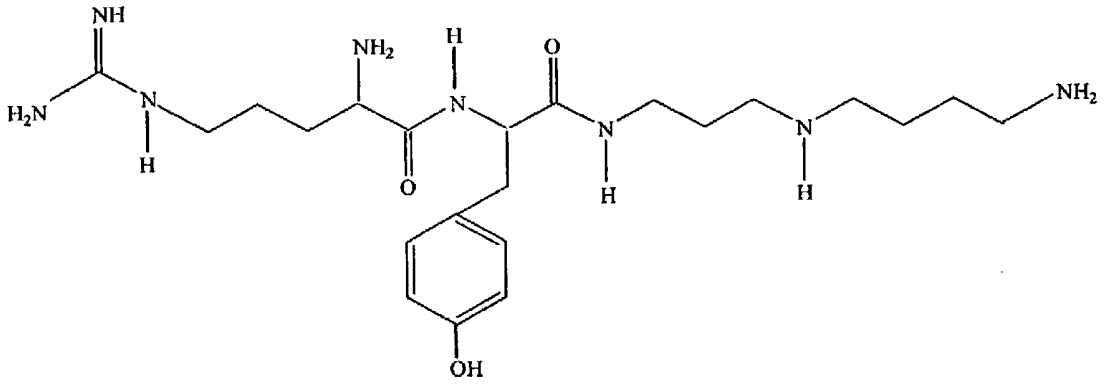
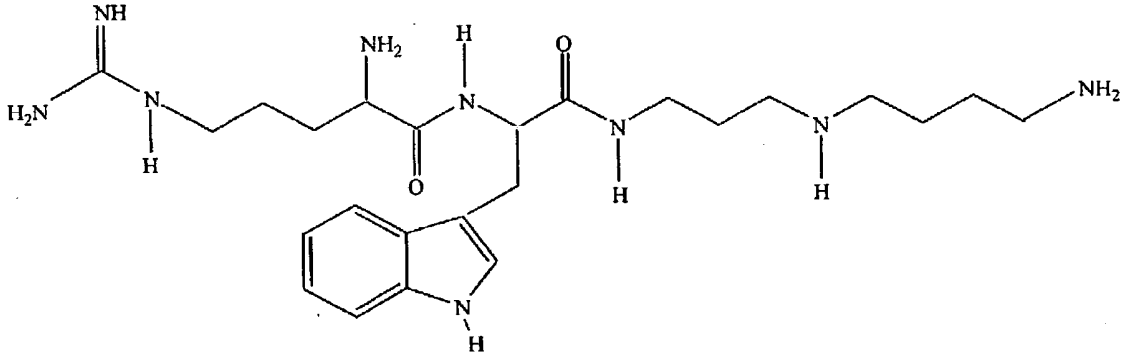
11. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



12. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



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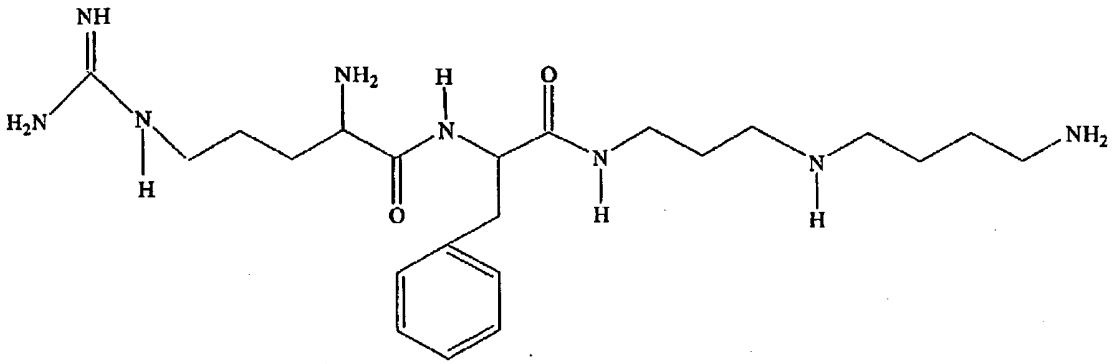
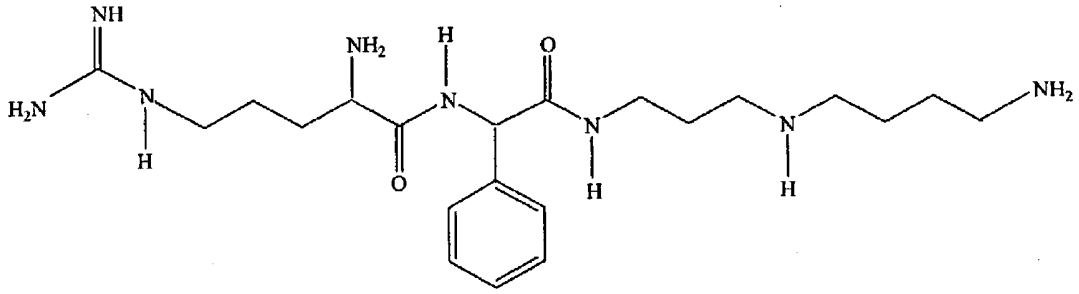
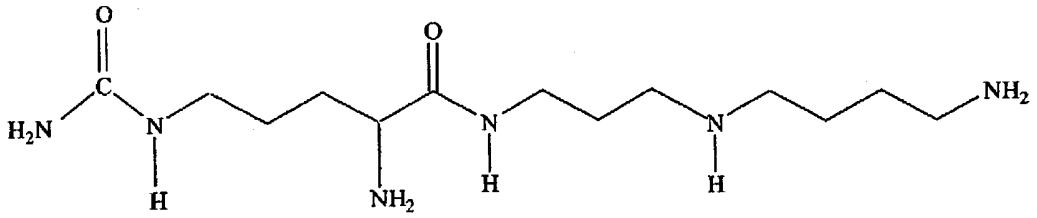
14. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



15. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



16. (Previously Presented) A compound according to Claim 25 which is:



17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

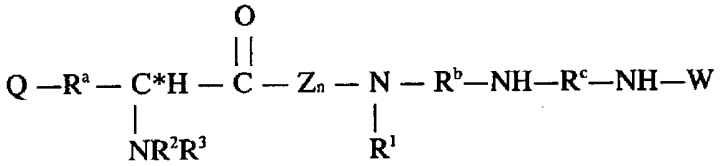
21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A substantially pure compound having less than 1% contaminants and having the formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

Q represents an amidino group, a cyano group or a group of formula XYN-, where

X and Y are the same or different, and each may represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, or hetero-atom containing group or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group;

R^a represents a straight or branched chain alkylene or alkenylene group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and each optionally being substituted by from 1 to 4 alkyl groups each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R^b and R^c represents an alkylene or ~~alkylene~~ alkenylene group having 3 or 4 carbon atoms in a straight chain, each being optionally substituted by a 1 or 2 alkyl groups each having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the total number of carbon atoms in said straight chains of R^b and R^c being 7;

R^2 and R^3 are the same as or different from each other and each represents a hydrogen atom, or a group of formula R, RCO-, ROCO-, or RNHCO-, where

R represents a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said alkyl or aryl group being optionally substituted by one or more of the substituents α, defined below;

the chiral carbon atom indicated by the asterisk is in the L configuration;

Z is an aromatic amino acid residue;

n is 0 or 1;

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group or an aryl group, said alkyl or aryl group being optionally substituted by one or more of the substituents α, defined below;

W represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or aryl group; and

substituents α are selected from: halogen atoms, amino groups, alkylamino groups, dialkylamino groups, cyano groups, hydroxy groups, alkyl groups (except when the substituted group is ~~akyl~~ alkyl), aryl groups, carbamoyl groups, alkylcarbamoyl groups, dialkylcarbamoyl groups and carboxy groups and esters thereof;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.